

City of Memphis



A C WHARTON, JR. – Mayor

Advisory Council for Citizens with
Disabilities

TENNESSEE

To: MTAC & MACCD members

From: Louis Patrick

**Re: Memphis Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAC)
Meeting**

Date: April 11, 2014

Present: Betty Anderson, William Bass, Dennis Lynch, Louis Patrick

On April 7 a Madison line trolley caught fire, the second in six months. MATA suspended service.

Advocates working with MATA have asked for copies of their written policies and procedures on numerous occasions. MATA has never complied with that request.

Considering the difficulties of entry and egress to and from trolleys for riders using wheelchairs and other mobility devices, we feel it is critical that MATA develop a standard procedure for emergency evacuation of individuals with disabilities from trolleys. We believe that the procedure should be developed in coordination with the Memphis Fire and Police Departments. Because the need for standardized behavior is so critical in this case, we think the procedure must be written out and shared with all MATA trolley personnel. We further feel that communication should not be routed through MATA as this will cause unnecessary delay.

Although we feel it most crucial to develop trolley procedures immediately, evacuation procedures for mainline and MATApplus should be quickly developed as well.

We should seek advice from our city representatives as to whether and how we should inform MATA's board of these needs.

Manufacturers of mainline and paratransit buses may have suggestions for evacuation procedures. We should ask.

Might the APTA (American Public Transit Association) have model Policies and Procedures. We should ask.

Discussion of need to provide policies and procedures and bus schedules in formats accessible to those with visual and other reading impairments.

The next MTAC Meeting will be Friday, June 13, 2014 at 10:30 m at the Trolley Barn located at 547 N. Main Street.

Tom Fox, MATA Interim Manager, will be invited to the June Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am